

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-third Legislature First Regular Session - 2015

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 263

BY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015; AMENDING SECTION 3 OF HOUSE BILL NO. 168, AS ENACTED BY THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTY-THIRD IDAHO LEGISLATURE, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN PAYMENTS.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 3 of House Bill No. 168, as enacted by the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, shall be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 3. USE OF FUNDS. It is the intent of the Legislature that the funding provided in Section 2 of this act is for schools to purchase broadband services in an amount equivalent to what was provided through the Idaho Education Network as of February 1, 2015.

(a) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall require school districts to provide documentation, as determined by the superintendent, to support all funds distributed.

(b) The superintendent shall have the authority to make advances of the money appropriated in Section 2 of this act to school districts as the superintendent deems adequate, as determined by past usage, and of sufficiency to minimize financial difficulties by the school districts while procuring services.

(c) The superintendent shall have the authority to make payments for additional costs incurred by schools, from the money appropriated in Section 2 of this act, if they became ineligible for E-rate reimbursement as a result of purchasing services on the now void Idaho Education Network contract. Once the superintendent determines that the appropriation provided for in Section 2 of this act is sufficient to pay for all costs to maintain broadband services and associated maintenance, then remaining funds may be paid to school districts. If the total remaining funds are insufficient to fully compensate eligible schools, then the superintendent shall prorate reimbursement based upon available funds.

(d) The superintendent shall target the resources necessary for students currently relying on online curricula by coordinating with the Idaho Digital Learning Academy and other providers of online education to identify barriers to completing their courses and finding appropriate solutions. The superintendent shall prioritize assistance to those students who are scheduled to graduate in the spring or winter of 2015.

~~(de)~~ This is a fixed appropriation and any surplus shall revert back to the General Fund on July 31, 2015. School districts are cautioned that funding from the state for fiscal year 2016 is not included in this act. However, it is the intent of the Legislature to provide funding for these services for fiscal year 2016 as soon as is practicable.